

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.
Reading Passage

Only the smallest ⁽¹⁾fraction of the human race has ever acquired the habit of taking an objective view of the past. For most people, even most educated people, the past is merely a ⁽²⁾prologue to the present, not merely without interest [] is independent of the present, but simply ⁽³⁾inconceivable except in terms of the present. The events of our own past life are remembered, not as they seemed to us at the time, but merely as incidents leading up to our present situation. We cannot persuade ourselves – in fact, we make no attempt to do so – that undertakings which ended in failure were entered upon with just as much forethought and optimism as those which have profoundly affected our lives.

Questions

Q1. Vocabulary(6 points)

Choose the word that is closest in meaning to the boldfaced word in each sentence.

(1) fraction

- ① part ② cause ③ exchange ④ number

(2) prologue

- ① climax ② introduction ③ copy ④ discovery

(3) inconceivable

- ① unforgettable ② unthinkable
③ unchangeable ④ unnecessary

Q2. Sentence Order(6 points)

Rearrange the following words to complete the phrase meaningfully.
One word is unnecessary.

Write the correct phrase and identify the unnecessary word.

[as / far / it / in / so / very]

Q3. Grammar/Usage(8 points)

Choose the sentence in which the double-underlined is used in the same way as the underlined word in the sentence:

- ① He was leading the team to victory.
- ② Leading a healthy life is important for everyone.
- ③ There was a road leading to the village.
- ④ He finished his speech, leading the audience to applaud.

Q4. Translation(20 points)

Translate the underlined part into natural Japanese.

Q5. Reading Comprehension(10 points)

Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

(1) What is the main idea of the passage?

- ① People always remember the past accurately.
- ② The past is usually viewed only in relation to the present.
- ③ Most people ignore the importance of optimism.
- ④ The past is completely irrelevant to the present.

(2) According to the passage, how do people usually remember their past?

- ① As a series of objective records
- ② As events unrelated to the present
- ③ As incidents connected to their current situation
- ④ As mistakes to be forgotten

(3) What does the author imply about failed undertakings?

- ① They were planned with less care than successful ones.
- ② They were entered with the same seriousness as successful ones.
- ③ They were avoided whenever possible.
- ④ They are not worth remembering at all.

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Time scales have changed ~about social history from out-of-date and discarded explanations.